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Remarks

Claims 1-11 were pending in the application when last examined, all of which stand rejected.

Drawings

Drawings are objected to for failing to show the conventional LCD apparatus as described in the specification.

37 CFR 1.83(a) states the following:

The drawing in a nonprovisional application must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, conventional features disclosed in the description and claims, where their detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention, should be illustrated in the drawing in the form of a graphical drawing symbol or a labeled representation (e.g., a labeled rectangular box).

Claims 6 and 9 refer to an "LCD panel." An LCD panel 210 is shown in FIG. 1 as a rectangular box. Since the crux of the invention is not the LCD panel itself but the components and structure of a backlight assembly that may be used with the LCD panel, a detailed illustration of the LCD panel is not necessary and FIG. 1 satisfies the requirement under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The backlight assembly of the invention may be used with different types of LCD panels.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,577,361 to Sekiguchi et al. ("Sekiguchi").

Claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Sekiguchi at least because they recite, "... a light condensing part integrally formed with the light controlling part" As shown in FIG. 1 and described in paragraph 33 of the Application, the light condensing part (brightness enhancement sheet 226 in this embodiment) is integrally formed with the light controlling part (light diffusion plate 224 in this embodiment).

Paragraph 6 of the Office Action of February 20, 2007 ("the Office Action") states that Sekiguchi's col. 12, lines 61-65 teach a light condensing part integrally formed with the light controlling part. This cited section mentions an auxiliary light source 31 that includes a fluorescent tube 32, a reflector 34, a prism sheet, and a diffuser 33. Paragraphs 6 and 8 of the Office Action

read Sekiguchi's auxiliary light source 31 as corresponding to the "backlight assembly" of Claims 1 and 6, Sekiguchi's fluorescent tube 32 as corresponding to the "light generating part" of Claims 1 and 6, and Sekiguchi's diffuser 33 as the "light controlling part" of Claims 1 and 6. As for Sekiguchi's prism sheet, there is no teaching in Sekiguchi that the prism sheet would be "integrally formed" with the diffuser 33. Thus, there is no element in Sekiguchi that would correspond to the "light condensing part integrally formed with the light controlling part" recited in Claims 1 and 6.

Hence, Claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Sekiguchi. Claim 4, which depends from Claim 1, is patentable over Sekiguchi for the same reason as Claim 1. Claim 8, which depends from Claim 1, is patentable over Sekiguchi for the same reason as Claim 6.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

Claims 2, 3, and 7 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,369,945 to Sakuramoto et al. ("Sakuramoto").

These rejections are based on the assumption that Sekiguchi discloses the limitations of Claim 1 and Claim 6. However, as explained above, this is not the case. Hence, dependent Claims 2, 3, and 7 are patentable over a combination of Sekiguchi and Sakuramoto by virtue of their dependence from Claims 1 and 6.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0063234 to Oda et al. ("Oda"). This rejection is based on the assumption that Sekiguchi teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 from which Claim 5 depends. However, as explained above, Sekiguchi does not teach "a light condensing part integrally formed with the light controlling part ..." as recited in Claim 1. Hence, Sekiguchi fails to teach all the elements of Claim 1, and Claim 5 is patentable over a combination of Sekiguchi and Oda by virtue of its dependence from Claim 1.

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,458 to Ohkawa ("Ohkawa") and U.S. Patent Number 6,429,915 to Yeh et al ("Yeh"). These rejections are based on the assumption that Sekiguchi teaches all the limitations of Claim 9 except the protection sheet (see Office Action, page 7, first full paragraph). However, Sekiguchi does not teach "a brightness enhancement sheet integrally formed with the

light diffusion plate ..." as recited in Claim 9. There is no component in Sekiguchi's device that is integrally formed with the light diffusion plate (33) that enhances brightness. Hence, Sekiguchi fails to teach all the elements of Claim 9, and Claim 9 is patentable over a combination of Sekiguchi, Ohkawa, and Yeh. Claim 10 depends from Claim 9 and is patentable over Sekiguchi, Ohkawa, and Yeh for at least the same reason as Claim 9.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiguchi, Ohkawa, Yeh, and Sakuramoto. This rejection is based on the assumption that Sekiguchi teaches all the limitations of Claim 9 from which Claim 11 depends. However, as explained above, Sekiguchi does not teach "a brightness enhancement sheet integrally formed with the light diffusion plate ..." as recited in Claim 9. Hence, Sekiguchi fails to teach all the elements of Claim 9, and Claim 11 is patentable over a combination of Sekiguchi, Ohkawa, Yeh, and Sakuramoto by virtue of its dependence from Claim 9.

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Conclusion


Based on the foregoing, Claims 1- 11 are now in condition for allowance. Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (408) 392-9250 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 19, 2007

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